

About Rotherham – the Council

Rotherham Council is a metropolitan borough council and is responsible for providing a range of services including social care, planning, housing, revenue and benefits support, licensing, business regulation and enforcement, electoral registration, refuse and recycling, leisure, culture, parks and green spaces, economic growth, highways maintenance, education and skills, community safety and public health.

It also has an important role in working with other providers of public services across Rotherham for approximately 260,000 residents and 100,000 people who work in Rotherham (37,000 from outside the borough).

Rotherham is one of four constituent local authorities making up the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. That means working closely with colleagues across the region to boost the local economy, improve transport infrastructure and developing a highly skilled workforce. A devolution deal for South Yorkshire, worth an estimated £900m for the region over the next 30 years, came into effect in Summer 2021.

Health

Rotherham has six primary care networks and the Rotherham Foundation Trust Hospital, providing care to the borough's 260,000 residents. The Council is an integral part of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System, providing care beyond the GP surgeries and hospitals and enabling people to be supported in their own homes or other residential services.

With strong and seamless relationships with all care providers, the Council ensures people are supported when they are discharged from hospital and also works to deliver a raft of care and support across the borough that ensures everyone is able to fulfil their potential and play an active role in their communities.

Housing

Rotherham Council manages almost 21,000 properties and has a comprehensive and ambitious building programme that is working to deliver 1,000 new homes that are fit for the future needs of our residents and the economy.

We are also working to modernise our existing stock and this is an integral part of our climate ambitions as we work to a net carbon zero future, switching to greener technologies and supporting residents to live in more sustainable ways.

Decision making

The Council's constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that this is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

Following May's election, the Council has 59 councillors, representing 25 wards inside the Rotherham Borough geographical boundary, with wards having a mixture of 2 and 3 elected members. The Council is currently led by a Labour Cabinet consisting of nine Members.

Following the end of intervention, all powers were returned to the Council in March 2019 and decisions are taken in public every four weeks by Cabinet collectively.

There are a number of committees and panels which are responsible for decision making within the organisation, including Council, Cabinet, Audit Committee, Standards and Ethics Committee and Scrutiny.

Details of all these, as well as copies of agendas, papers and official minutes of proceedings can be found on the Council's website at <http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk>.

Making improvements

In January 2018, Children and Young People's Services were rated as 'good' with some 'outstanding' features by Ofsted. They confirmed that there is now a whole Council approach to ensuring that children and young people receive good services, are safe and are supported to achieve their ambitions.

An Independent Review took place in February 2019 to assess the progress of the Council's improvement plan. The review team stated that the Council had moved from 'fixing things and firefighting, to becoming an outward facing, modern and innovative council'. They also commented on the Council's corporate and partnership working that is now based on trust and mutual respect.

The review stated that 'the pace of improvement across the Council has increased beyond our expectations' and that the Council had 're-established its moral compass which gives confidence that in future the Council will make good choices which promote the safety and welfare of its residents.'

In the letter confirming the formal end of government intervention in March 2019, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government thanked the Council's leadership for transforming a failing authority to one that is 'reinvigorated and fully autonomous.'

The day-to-day management of the Council and its services is overseen by the Strategic Leadership Team and led by the Chief Executive, Sharon Kemp.

Our Vision & Priorities

Rotherham is our home, where we come together as a community, where we seek to draw on our proud history to build a future we can all share. We value decency and dignity and seek to build a town where opportunity is extended to everyone, where people can grow, flourish and prosper, and where no one is left behind.

To achieve this as a council we must work in a modern, efficient way, to deliver sustainable services in partnership with our local neighbourhoods, looking outwards, yet focussed relentlessly on the needs of our residents.

To this end we set out four priorities:

- 1 Every child making the best start in life
- 2 Every adult secure, responsible and empowered
- 3 A strong community in a clean, safe environment
- 4 Extending opportunity, prosperity and planning for the future